

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243 Telephone (615) 741-2904

Sara Kyle, Chairman Lynn Greer, Director Melvin Malone, Director K. DAVID WADDELL Executive Secretary

Memorandum

To:

Docket File

From: K. David Waddell

RE:

Petition of United Telephone Company to Change and Increase Certain Intrastate Rates and Charges so as to Permit It to Earn a Fair and Adequate Rate of Return on Its Property Used and Useful in Furnishing Telephone Service to Its Customers in Tennessee and to Adopt New and Realistic Depreciation Rates for Central Office Equipment.

Docket No. 01- 00451.

Date: January 10, 2002

The attached documents constitute the summary report and supporting items concerning the quality of service public hearings conducted in conjunction with the above referenced docket by the Consumer Services Division of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

These documents are hereby placed in the docket file and copies are provided to the parties of record.

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Sara Kyle, Chairman Lynn Greer, Director Melvin Malone, Director



460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

MEMORANDUM

TO;

K. David Waddell

Executive Secretary

FROM:

Lewis T. De Board

. De Board 70 - -

Consumer Services Division

DATE:

January 10, 2001

SUBJECT:

United Telephone's Quality of Service Public Meetings at Chapel Hill and

Nolansville, Tennessee.

It is the practice of the Authority when a utility files for a rate change to receive public input regarding the quality of service provided to consumers by that utility. In connection to United Telephone's recently filed rate change, the Consumer Services Division conducted public meetings in Chapel Hill on October 29, 2001 and in Nolansville on October 30, 2001.

Attached are the reports for those public meetings held to receive consumer input concerning United Telephone's quality of service. Please note that attached to the Chapel Hill report is a petition submitted by Ms. Shawna Collins. This petition had one page that appeared to be duplicated, but on closer examination the duplicate page contained one additional name which has been added to the total number of signatures.

CC: Eddie Roberson, Chief Consumer Services Division

United Telephone's Quality of Service Chapel Hill Public Meeting October 29, 2001

Consumer Service Division held a public meeting in Chapel Hill regarding United Telephone's ("United") quality of service. Sixteen consumers attended the meeting and there was one representative from United Telephone.

There were several complaints that consumers in Chapel Hill could not select national ISPs such as AOL.

Consumers wanted Extended Area Calling and stated they were willing to pay a reasonable fee.

There were complaints that citizens of Chapel Hill could not call or receive calls from the largest employer in the area, Saturn, without it being a long distance call. A member of the factory staff stated that calling to Chapel Hill is the largest portion of Saturn's local long distance bill. (Note: Saturn is not in Marshall County.)

One complainant stated that she could not even call to order a pizza without incurring a toll charge when the shop is only four miles down the road and in United's service area. (Note: The pizza shop was across the county line.)

There was complaints that citizens of Chapel Hill could not make a toll free call that exceeded a two (2) mile radius, and that this calling situation was affecting local real estate sales and value. In addition, they stated their area of interest, community and family were in other areas such as College Grove. (Close proximity but across county lines.)

One consumer stated she did not understand why they could not have a calling area similar to other states where your toll free calling was within a certain radius of where you lived, like living in Indiana and being able to call Chicago because it was within a fifty mile radius, and this type of calling plan was available 30 to 35 years ago.

Statements of the attending Chapel Hill citizens held a consensus view that United was a monopoly and that they were being isolated from better service (more options) because of where they lived. They also made a statement that they did not want to pay more unless they get better service, especially a better calling area. That dollar for dollar, by comparison Chapel Hill is receiving "lousy" service. They cannot even call within the United service area without incurring toll charges. The attendees generally stated they did not want to pay more unless they got better service which means a larger calling area.

Attached is a petition submitted by Ms. Shawna Collins with two hundred and forty-seven (247) signatures requesting "the same services that are offered to the area surrounding us such as area plus calling".



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Roadrunner Electric Co., Inc.

8219 NEAL ROAD ARRINGTON, TENNESSEE 37014

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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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ATTENTION: LOWIS T. DE BOARD III	
FROM: SHAWNA COWINS	
SUBJECT: United Telephone CO,	
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United Telephone's Quality of Service Nolansville Public Meeting October 30, 2001

The Consumer Services Division conducted a public meeting in Nolansville regarding United Telephone's quality of service. Two consumers attended the meeting and there were two representatives from the United.

Both consumers expressed displeasure at their inability to have a larger calling area and wanted to know if United was ever going to allow Area Plus calling.

The availability of DSL was questioned and discussed. One consumer asked about her area and United responded that DSL service would be available to her if she called and placed an order. United stated they have the service available is some of the residential areas and are installing more remotes to make it available in other areas.

The consumers wanted a United business office in Nolansville so that they did not have to drive all the way to Chapel Hill, about a forty (40) minute drive, if they wanted to discuss their bill. United responded that they were working on this issue.